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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SAJ-01 SSO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /063 R

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APPROVED BY EUR-JGLOWENSTEIN
EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
EUR/CAN:JROUSE
CU/IAP:RJONES
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---------- 064789
O R 082324Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET LOBBYING IN MONTREAL AGAINST RFE/RL
OLYMPIC ACCREDITATION

1. AS POSTS ARE AWARE, SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO
DUPLICATE AT MONTREAL THEIR SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AT INNSBRUCK
TO HAVE RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY ACCREDITATION FOR
GAMES WITHDRAWN. SOVIETS WILL HAVE UPHILL FIGHT, SINCE
RADIOS THIS TIME SCRUPULOUSLY ABIDED BY PRESS CREDENTIALS
RULES, AND THEIR ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN
ACCEPTED BY US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND CANADIAN OLYMPIC
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. THE IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDED ON
JULY 1 TO APPROVE RFE/RL ACCREDITATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
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ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE TO SOVIETS IN MONTREAL WOULD BE TO

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CHALLENGE ACCREDITATION BEFORE FULL IOC DURING THAT BODY'S MEETING JULY 13-15.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT LARGE SOVIET CONTINGENT INCLUDING SOME FROM SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND OTHERS FROM MOSCOW ARE GOING TO MONTREAL (PRIMARILY TO EXAMINE SITUATION WITH EYE TO 1980). THIS COULD LEAD TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS AND OLYMPIC OFFICIALS ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING WITH IOC REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (CONCENTRATING ON

THIRD WORLD MEMBERS) TO PERSUADE THEM TO VOTE AGAINST ACCREDITATION.

3. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO COUNTER A SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN MONTREAL. RFE/RL PERSONNEL AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ROBERT JONES WHO WILL BE IN MONTREAL JULY 12 HAVE ALREADY ARRANGED TO MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH USOC AND IOC MEMBERS, AND WILL DISCUSS ROLE OF RADIOS. THEY WILL ALSO DRAW ATTENTION TO SENATE RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AT THE OLYMPICS (PASSED 74-0 ON JULY 1) AND THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT (RELEASED JULY 8) SUPPORTING THAT RESOLUTION

4. IF LARGE SOVIET CONTINGENT IN MONTREAL UNDERTAKES MAJOR LOBBYING EFFORT ON RFE/RL ISSUE, USG WILL HAVE TO ORGANIZE RESPONSE, DRAWING ON EMBASSY/CONGEN TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. AT THIS TIME, YOU SHOULD, AS FEASIBLE, MONITOR THE SITUATION AND CABLE THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY WITH ANY NEWS ON THE ISSUE OF THE RADIOS' ACCREDITATION, WHICH WE WILL PASS ON TO RFE/RL IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. THE DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE IF ANY FURTHER STEPS BECOME NECESSARY YOU SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME ATTEMPT TO CONTACT ANY NON-US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH YOU MAY SHARE THIS INFO WITH CANADIAN MFA.

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To: OTTAWA MONTREAL
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